



YMCA and YWCA Now Separate Organizations

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ST. JOHN'S, NL - A name change for one organization and a renewal process for another are in store for the YMCA and YWCA in St. John's and surrounding area.

This comes following a vote by the YMCA-YWCA's membership to voluntarily withdraw from the affiliation with YWCA Canada. In keeping with the organization's bylaws, the vote was held on two separate days (May 31 and June 15). On each day, the membership voted unanimously to withdraw.

The YMCA-YWCA of Northeast Avalon is re-named the YMCA of Northeast Avalon. "Only our name is changing," says Chris Roos, President and CEO. "We will continue to offer the same programs and services for women, men, children and families."

Meanwhile, a Community Action Group has been established and an Outreach Consultant hired with the goal of re-establishing YWCA programs in the community. "We have heard from women and a wide variety of community members and organizations of their strong interest in, and need for, local programs and services focusing on women and girls," says Paulette Senior, CEO of YWCA Canada. "With their support, we will re-establish the presence of the YWCA in the Avalon Peninsula." This commitment is further supported by significant financial investment from YWCA Canada to work with key stakeholders to provide YWCA programs and services in the St. John's community and beyond.

"The YMCA board of directors is strongly supportive of the YWCA renewing its community presence and we are committed to support the YWCA to make that happen," says board chair Greg Dickie. "While our missions are different, each of our organizations has a long history in the community and, we believe, a bright future."

About YMCA of Northeast Avalon:

The YMCA of Northeast Avalon is a multi-service charity serving communities for over 150 years. Programs in health, employment, child care, and camping are offered at more than 20 locations throughout the Northeast Avalon.

About YWCA Canada:

YWCA Canada is the country's oldest and largest women's multi-service organization. With 34 Member Associations operating in more than 400 districts and communities across the country, our Turning Point Programs for Women™ - which address personal safety, economic security and well-being – reach out to 1 million women, girls and their families. YWCA is the largest national provider of shelter to women, serving 25,000 women, children and teen girls including 6,000 fleeing domestic violence each year. We are the largest provider of literacy, life skills, employment and counselling programs in the country, and the second largest provider of childcare services. YWCA Canada is a member association of the World YWCA which unites 25 million women and girls worldwide and spans 125 countries. For more information about YWCA Canada and our Member Associations, visit www.ywcacanada.ca or find us on Twitter @YWCA_Canada or Facebook at www.facebook.com/ywcacanada.

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For more information please contact:

Michelle Northover
Director, Development
YMCA of Northeast Avalon
709-726-9622 ext. 240

Laura Tilley
Manager, Communications & Marketing
YWCA Canada
416-962-8881 ext. 233